restoration of iodide transport into the cancerous cell, and wherein the unblocking agent is a demethylating or a differentiating agent other than retinoic acid.

Claim 16 (Twice Amended). A method of restoring iodide transport to dedifferentiated thyroid cancer cells comprising administering a demethylating agent in an amount effective to transcriptionally activate a hypermethylated sodium iodide symporter gene in the thyroid cancer cells that are defective in iodide transport, whereby iodine transport is restored to the dedifferentiated cancer cells.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the comments below.

Claims 1-5, 7-14 and 16-19 are pending in the subject application; claims 17-19 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to make explicit that which was implicit in the claims as originally presented. The claims were specifically amended to recite that iodide transport is restored in the cancerous cells. Claim 1 has further been amended to exclude the use of retinoic acid in the claimed method. No new matter is added by these amendments to the claims.

Entry of the amendments to claims 1 and 16 is respectfully requested in view of the fact that these amendments either place the claims in condition for allowance, or at the least, will limit the issues on appeal.